

Hair Braiding Outside of Cosmetology Establishments

Infection Control Guidelines for Providers

These recommendations are provided as guidance to individuals who practice hair braiding outside of regulated cosmetology establishments (as defined by K.A.R. 28-24-1) for the purpose of reducing the risk of transmission of infectious diseases or infestations in such settings.

General Hygiene and Infection Control

When braiding hair in unregulated settings, you should:

Wear attire that is clean and which covers the body from the shoulders to mid-thigh, including the armpits.

Assure that your work setting has adequate hand washing facilities including clean water (preferably warm), a soap dispenser (not bar soap), and individual paper towels.

Thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water before serving each patron.

Never provide hair braiding services to patrons while you are knowingly afflicted with an infectious disease or infestation which may be transmitted during the act of hair braiding. Examples are scabies, head lice, shingles, ringworm, other skin infections, flu, etc.

Never provide hair braiding services to patrons when you have any lesion(s) of the hands or forearms such that the skin is not intact (excluding minor cuts or abrasions) or appears to be inflamed or infected.

Wear gloves covering any minor cuts or abrasions of your hands when braiding a patron's hair (gloves should be changed **and** hands should be washed between patrons).

Never provide hair braiding services to a patron who has any lesion(s) of the scalp such that the skin is not intact (excluding minor cuts or abrasions) or appears to be inflamed or infected.

Discontinue braiding activity when abrasions

or other injuries occur to the scalp of a patron as a result of hair braiding activity, and refer the patron to his/her medical care provider.

Disinfection of Instruments

Before use upon each patron, all non-electrical instruments and equipment should be disinfected in the following manner:

1. Clean with soap or detergent and water.
2. Immerse totally in either an EPA-registered product that contains one of the following terms on its label: sterilant; bactericide, fungicide, and virucide; disinfectant, fungicide and virucide; germicide, fungicide and virucide used according to the manufacturer's instructions or in 70 percent isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol for at least 10 minutes.
3. Rinse adequately with clean water in order to avoid exposing a patron or yourself to potentially caustic or harmful chemicals.

Harmful Procedures, Appliances, or Chemicals

When braiding a patron's hair, you should refrain, at all times, from the use of procedures, appliances, or chemicals which are known to be or are potentially harmful to the patron or to you.



This Hair Braiding Outside of Cosmetology Establishments fact sheet is brought to you by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Bureau of Epidemiology, 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 210, Topeka, KS 66612.

Provider Self-Test on Infection Control Guidelines

Circle "T" for True or "F" for False to indicate your response to each statement.

1. For hand washing, it is adequate for several braiders to use the same bar of soap.

T

F

2. For drying hands after washing, individual, disposable paper towels are preferred over a single, shared towel.

T

F

3. It is only necessary to wash my hands after every second or third person.

T

F

4. I should never provide hair braiding services if I have active skin infections or scabies.

T

F

5. When braiding, I should wear gloves to cover any minor cuts or abrasions on my hands.

T

F

6. When wearing gloves, I do not need to wash my hands between patrons.

T

F

7. If a patron's scalp is injured from the braiding process, I can continue as long as the patron is not experiencing excessive pain.

T

F

8. It is adequate to only rinse combs and brushes in warm water between patrons.

T

F

Kansas law requires that a copy of this fact sheet and the completed self-test be kept at the braiding site.

Answer Key: 1F, 2T, 3F, 4T, 5T, 6F, 7F, 8F